

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 048749
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 INSE-00 H-01 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DERUETHER:DWL
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
HA/ORM - LARTHUR
NEA/AFN - T'ILKENSON (INFO)
-----043353 260828Z /21

R 242158Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT BAGHDAD
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 048749

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, SREF, IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQI CHRISTIANS

REF: A) BAGHDAD 333 B) RABAT 781 (NOTAL) C) ATHENS 1039
(NOTAL) D) STATE 25601 E) BAGHDAD 195 F) BAGHDAD 202

1. THE COURT ORDER RESTRICTING 34 IRAQI CHRISTIANS TO A 25
MILE RADIUS OF NEW YORK CITY LAPSED FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17.
THEY ARE FREE TO GO ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES WHILE
INS IS RULING ON THEIR STATUS. SOME REPORTEDLY HAVE
TRAVELED TO CALIFORNIA. INS HAS ASKED FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S
COMMENTS ON THE GROUP'S CLAIM TO POLITICAL ASYLUM.

2. THE GROUP'S ORIGINAL LAWYERS HAVE WITHDRAWN AND THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 048749

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE HAS ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
GROUPS LEGAL, HOUSING, AND MEDICAL NEEDS. MOST MEMBERS
OF THE GROUP ARE ARMENIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS. THE
ARMENIAN COMMUNITY IS TAKING AN INCREASING INTEREST IN THE
REFUGEES. THE GROUP CONSISTS OF EIGHT OR NINE FAMILIES,
ONE WITH 15 MEMBERS SPANNING THREE GENERATIONS.

3. INS LEVIED DOLS 34,000 FINE AGAINST ROYAL AIR MOROC ON
FEBRUARY 13. AIR MOROC HAS THE RIGHT TO LITIGATE THE FINE.

4. FOR BAGHDAD: OUR FIRST EXAMINATION OF THE GROUP'S
APPLICATIONS SUGGEST THAT THEY INADEQUATELY DOCUMENTED
THEIR CLAIM TO RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL PERSECUTION. OUR
COMMENTS FOR INS, HOWEVER, SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
WHETHER THE GROUP HAS A REASONABLE FEAR OF PERSECUTION
IF THEY WERE TO RETURN TO IRAQ. THE GOI PUBLIC CLAIM
THAT THE CIA WAS BEHIND THE GROUP'S ACTION, OTHER
VITROLIC IRAQI PRESS ACCOUNTS AND THE IRAQI DIPLOMATIC
NOTE (REFTELS E AND F) SUGGEST THAT EVEN IF NO GROUNDS
FOR ASYLUM EXISTED BEFORE THE GROUP ARRIVED IN THE
UNITED STATES, SUCH GROUNDS MAY EXIST NOW. WOULD
APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON WHETHER THESE GOI STATEMENTS
ESTABLISH A REASONABLE FEAR OF PERSECUTION. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHRISTIANS, TRAVEL CONTROLS, COURT DECISIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE048749
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DERUETHER:DWL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780088-1241
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780214/aaaaalsn.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fab1b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BAGHDAD 333, 78 RABAT 781, 78 ATHENS 1039
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3480799
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAQI CHRISTIANS
TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, SREF, IZ, US
To: BAGHDAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fab1b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014